

**Social Service Human Relations Board**  
**Minutes of the Special Meeting, Thursday, December 6, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL: Acting President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Acting President Wasko, Members Nielsen, Franz, Chen, Villareal, Soglin, and James along with staff member Jones.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The special meeting minutes from November 15, 2007 were approved. M/S Villareal, Franz and unanimous.

3-A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Motion to close nominations, (M/S Franz, James) and unanimous. Motion to approve those nominated, (M/S Franz, Soglin) and unanimous.

3-B. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE STAFF UPDATE:

Staff member Jones explained that Board members have been seeking more information about domestic violence services in the City of Alameda. In addition, Board members have expressed an interest in learning more about the Domestic Violence Task Force that once existed in the City. Member Jones explained that several non-profits funded through CDBG resources serve victims of domestic violence. She further explained staff has recently facilitated a partnership between the Family Violence Law Center (a non-profit agency) and the Alameda Police Department. The two agencies will be working together to pilot Family Violence Law Center's mobile Domestic Violence Response Team. The Response Team includes domestic violence advocates who will meet with victims of violence to provide referrals and support services.

3-C. WORKGROUP STATUS REPORTS:

*Alamedans Together Against Hate –*

Villareal provided an overview of the Immigration Forum that ATAH co-hosted with the League of Women Voters (LWV). He reported that the forum was very well attended, including high school students and adults. He shared information presented by the County Department of Public Health, the Alameda Unified School District, and SSHRB's president.

Wasko confirmed turnout was very strong.

Soglin confirmed that the LWV has a great network. Soglin then reported on two forums co-hosted with the College of Alameda. One of the forums was publicized in the Laney Tower, the Peralta student-run newspaper. According to the Tower article, turnout included over 100 people.

Soglin explained the cultural history forum, entitled "Cultural History, Meeting Story, Sharing Stories" targeted the whole community on campus for a weekday evening event, and 35 people attended. An article appeared in the Alameda Sun. Soglin further explained the forum began with Alamedans presenting personal histories.

Wasko commented that 35 people was a good turnout for a weekday evening event.

Soglin – The Public Safety forum was also hosted in conjunction with the College of Alameda. The Alameda Chief of Police, Alameda County Sheriff Deputy, panelists, 20-30 students, and faculty and staff hosted the event. SSHRB Member James was also present. The College of Alameda's president would like to have a follow-up discussion.

*Assessment and Awareness Workgroup –*

Soglin mentioned that Alameda's foreclosure issues are much smaller than other cities, but suggested the Board stay apprised of issues that may arise in order to prevent problems before they become foreclosures. Soglin reported on his concern that there are no foreclosure prevention programs that seem to be targeting Alameda to prevent possible foreclosure. He also reported Lena Tam has recently raised the issue of foreclosures in a City Council meeting after seeing a report from countywide presentation.

Nielsen reported on current work to find space for a dental clinic. She reminded the group that Alice Lai-Bitker's office is pledging funds for increased access to treatment.

Nielson also reported that the Alameda Resource guide has been distributed to 14 congregations, schools, services in schools, and the College of Alameda.

*Family Services Workgroup –*

Wasko – Reminded the Board of previous Festival of Families events that had been hosted at the Alameda Towne Centre. She mentioned there may be renewed interest in hosting such an event. Board members shared ideas for possible venues and times.

*Sister City Workgroup -*

Chen - reported the trip to China was a positive experience. 24 countries attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sister City conference in Wuxi. Chen reported Councilmember Matarrese has expressed an interest in promoting Sister City as an economic development tool.

Chen- mentioned China maximizes the Sister City efforts due to getting much support from their government and this being the other side of the spectrum for Alameda.

Wasko –Alameda needs to determine what kind of relationship we want with Wuxi. Wasko stated she believes it is too soon to pursue a non-profit spin off for the Sister City project. Staff is currently working to determine what funds exist that could help support a spin-off. She explained in order to achieve a spin-off, a Board of Directors would need to be chosen, and a mission and bylaws would need to be written. The timeline currently under consideration is for the formation of a non-profit by summer 2008. She further commented that a formal Sister City relationship needs to be in place first and suggested discussing this at a joint meeting with the Mayor and City Council.

Chen – Stated he disagreed that the Sister City Workgroup is not ready to form a non-profit. He explained that he agrees funding and staff time are the issues. He commented on Carol helping the workgroup with the spin-off.

Based on Board suggestion, staff member Jones will attempt to set a Joint Session with City Council to discuss Sister City.

3-D. PROCEDURE FOR ADDING ITEMS ON SSHRB AGENDA: Jones asked for three volunteers to write up a formal procedure for putting items on the meeting agenda. Members James, Soglin and Villareal will provide a draft procedure for adoption in February. M/S Franz, Wasko and unanimous.

4. BOARD / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: Wasko inquired who would attend her holiday party on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

6. ADJOURNMENT: President Wasko adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Jones  
Secretary, Social Services Human Relations Board

MJ:sb